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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Cowsert, Baker, McNeil, Freier, Sasmor, Brooks, Ohashi, Wyatt, Borchers and Vickers

Serial No.: 09/067,638

Group Art Unit: 1631

Filed: April 28, 1998

Examiner: A. Marschel

For:

IDENTIFICATION OF GENETIC TARGETS FOR MODULATION BY
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND GENERATION OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES
FOR GENE MODULATION

RECEIVED
PATENT
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DATE OF DEPOSIT: April 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed along with the continued prosecution application (CPA) filed herewith in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 14 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

D1 --Target protein levels can be quantitated in a variety of ways well known in the art, such as immunoprecipitation, Western blot analysis (immunoblotting), Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS). Antibodies directed to a protein encoded by a target nucleic acid can be identified and obtained from a variety of sources, such as the MSRS catalog of antibodies, (Aerie Corporation, Birmingham, MI or via the world wide web of the internet at ANTIBODIES-PROBES.com/), or can be prepared via conventional antibody generation methods. Methods for preparation of polyclonal, monospecific ('anti-peptide') and monoclonal antisera are taught by, for example, Ausubel *et al.* (*Short Protocols in Molecular Biology*, 2nd Ed., pp. 11-3 to 11-54, Greene Publishing Associates and John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 47, 48, 50, and 52-67 without prejudice, and add new claims 68-82 as follows:

D2
SUB E1
68. (New) An integrated system of associated components for preparing a set of oligonucleotides targeted to a selected nucleic acid and identifying particular members of said set that possess at least one property, said system comprising:

a computer network that prepares a virtual library of oligonucleotides targeted to said selected nucleic acid and generates synthesis instructions in computer manipulable form for each of said oligonucleotides in said virtual library;

an automated synthesizer that receives said synthesis instructions from said computer network and synthesizes a set of real oligonucleotides corresponding to said virtual set of oligonucleotides; and

an assay apparatus that accepts said set of real oligonucleotides and performs at least one assay for each of said real oligonucleotides wherein said assay identifies particular members of said set possessing said at least one property, wherein said assay is computer-controlled real-time polymerase chain reaction or computer-controlled enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.